

Election Day Toolkit

(Updated as New Information Becomes Available)

WHAT IS VOTE-BY-MAIL?

When you vote-by-mail, you are voting on a ballot received by mail or picked up at the Supervisor of Elections instead of going to the polls during the early voting period or Election Day. Except on Election Day, you can request a vote-by-mail for any reason. When you make this request, it covers all elections through the end of the calendar year.

HOW TO REQUEST A VOTE-BY-MAIL BALLOT

A request for a vote-by-mail ballot may be made in one of the following ways:

- Online application on your [county Supervisors of Elections' website](#)
- In writing (email, fax, mail) to Supervisor of Elections
- In person at Supervisor of Elections
- By telephone to Supervisor of Elections

To make a request, the following information is required:

- Your name
- Your address
- Your date of birth
- Your signature (if the request is written)

If an immediate family member or legal guardian is requesting a vote-by-mail ballot for you, the following additional information must be provided:

- The requestor's address
- The requestor's driver's license number (if available)
- The requestor's relationship to you
- The requestor's signature (if the request is written)

The deadline to request a vote-by-mail ballot is no later than 5 p.m., 10 days before the election. Exceptions exist for overseas military and civilian voters. (See [Military and Overseas Citizens Voting](#) for further information.)

WHO CAN PICK UP A VOTE-BY-MAIL BALLOT?

You can pick up your own vote-by-mail ballot at any time once the ballot becomes available, including on Election Day. You may also designate in writing someone else to pick up your ballot, beginning nine days before Election Day. The designee must submit an affidavit to pick-up the blank ballot. Form DS-DE 37 ([English PDF](#)/ [Español PDF](#)) combines an affidavit for ballot pick-up, the written authorization for the designee and, if a request is not already on record, your request for a vote-by-mail ballot.

If you or your designee waits until Election Day to pick up or have delivered a vote-by-mail ballot, the Election Day Vote-by-Mail Ballot Delivery Affidavit DS-DE 136 ([English PDF](#)/ [Español PDF](#)) must also be completed. You must affirm that an emergency exists that keeps you from being able to vote at your assigned polling place.

HOW TO COMPLETE A VOTE-BY-MAIL BALLOT

Instructions are included with the vote-by-mail ballot. The voted ballot must be returned and received by the Supervisor of Elections no later than 7 p.m. on Election Day. Other return options are available for [Military and Overseas Voters](#).

If you decide to go to the polls to vote instead of voting by mail, you should bring the vote-by-mail ballot (marked or not). The vote-by-mail ballot will be canceled and you can vote by a regular ballot at the polls. If you come to the polls without the vote-by-mail ballot, you can use a regular ballot if the Supervisor of Elections' office can confirm that it has not received your vote-by-mail ballot. If it is confirmed that the Supervisor of Elections office has received your ballot or it cannot be determined, you cannot vote by a regular ballot at the polls. However, if you believe that you have not already voted, you shall be allowed to vote by a provisional ballot.

You may drop off a completed vote-by-mail ballot at a designated secure drop box at the election's early voting sites. Please contact the Supervisor of Elections or refer to its website for the location of all the vote-by-mail ballot secure drop boxes in your county.

HOW TO CORRECT A MISSING OR MISMATCHED SIGNATURE ON YOUR VOTE-BY-MAIL BALLOT

If you are notified that you did not sign a vote-by-mail ballot certificate or that the signature on the certificate does not match the signature on record, you may complete and return a Vote-by-Mail Ballot Cure Affidavit DS-DE 139 ([English PDF](#) / [Español PDF](#)) with a copy of identification. The deadline to submit the form and the ID is no later than 5 p.m., two days after an election. Failure to follow the instructions may cause the ballot not to be counted.

HOW TO TRACK YOUR VOTE-BY-MAIL BALLOT REQUEST AND RETURNED BALLOT

Any voter who has requested a vote-by-mail ballot can track its status online through a link within the Division of Elections' [Voter Information Lookup](#) or through the county [Supervisor of Elections' website](#). For more information, [click here](#).

Election Dates for 2020

- Primary Election: August 18
- General Election: November 3

DEADLINE TO REGISTER (BOOK CLOSING)

You can register to vote at any time. The deadline to register in order to participate in an upcoming election is 29 days before the election. The registration deadlines for 2020 are:

- Primary Election: July 20
- General Election: October 5

VOTE-BY-MAIL BALLOT 'SEND' DEADLINE

For vote-by-mail ballot requests on record, state law requires that the ballots be sent during specified timeframes.

For absent stateside and overseas uniformed service member and overseas civilian voters (also known as UOCAVA voters), Supervisors of Elections send the ballots no

later than 45 days before an election. The send periods for 2020 are:

- Primary Election: July 4
- General Election: September 19

For domestic voters, Supervisors of Elections send the ballots during a seven-day window between 40 and 33 days before an election. The send periods for 2020 are:

- Primary Election: July 9-16
- General Election: September 24-October 1

EARLY VOTING PERIOD

By law, early voting must be held at least for eight days. The mandatory early voting periods for 2020 are:

- Primary Election: August 8-15
- General Election: October 24-31

Each county Supervisor of Elections may offer more days of early voting from one or more of the following days:

- Primary Election: August 3-7 and 16
- General Election: October 19-23 and November 1

Check with your [county Supervisor of Elections](#) for the additional days of early voting that may be offered in your county. For more information, [click here](#).

Resources Shared by the Lippman Kanfer Foundation:

[The ECA and the Process of Electing a New President](#)

[Lesson learned from 2000: Be patient with election results | Commentary](#)

[Strengthening American Democracy Is In Our Interest](#)

[Watchdogs demand election night clarity from the media](#)

[Webinar with Aaron Dorfman of Lippman Kanfer Foundation](#)

Additional Resources

Miami-Dade County Early Voting Schedule for November 2020 General Election:
<https://www.miamidade.gov/elections/library/2020-general-early-voting-schedule.pdf>

General Election Master Ballot:
<https://www.miamidade.gov/elections/library/sample-ballots/2020-11-03-general.pdf>

COVID-19 Health and Safety Fact Sheet for In-Person Voting:
<https://www.miamidade.gov/elections/library/2020-in-person-voting-health-safety-fact-sheet.pdf>

Miami-Dade County Vote by Mail FAQs:
<https://www.miamidade.gov/elections/library/vote-by-mail-faqs.pdf>

Miami-Dade County Elections Page:
<https://www.miamidade.gov/global/elections/home.page>